

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 229

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 187

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 229—Relative to Mexican Consular identification cards.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 18, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 229, Diaz. Mexican Consular identification cards.

This measure would urge cities and counties throughout California, including their respective agencies, and state agencies to accept the Mexican Consular identification cards, known as the “Matricula Consular,” as an official form of identification.

WHEREAS, There are many Mexican nationals residing in California who do not possess a form of identification issued by a United States federal or state agency; and

WHEREAS, Many immigrants are fearful of reporting crimes to the police because they do not possess proper identification; and

WHEREAS, Cities and counties in California waste hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on police processing time for immigrants who do not possess proper identification; and

WHEREAS, Many immigrants lack access to certain public services because they do not possess proper identification; and

WHEREAS, In 47 cities across the nation, including 10 in California, the Mexican Consulate or El Consulado General de Mexico, issues identification cards to Mexican nationals who have a birth certificate, a proper form of Mexican identification, and who have been residing in the United States for at least six months; and

WHEREAS, The Mexican Consular identification cards, or Matricula Consular, are state-of-the-art and contain various security safeguards designed to prevent falsification; and

WHEREAS, If Mexican citizens possess a Matricula Consular, they are able to establish their identities to local peace officers and acceptance of that identification would facilitate their interactions with law enforcement agencies and reduce the time needed to process undocumented immigrants, saving time and lowering costs; and

WHEREAS, If a Mexican citizen possesses a Matricula Consular, he or she will be more likely to report crimes and cooperate with law enforcement officers if it is an accepted form of identification; and

WHEREAS, If a Mexican citizen who possesses a Matricula Consular is able to establish his or her identity to other city and county personnel, he or she will have better access to public services; and

WHEREAS, Acceptance of the Mexican Consular identification cards will enable many of California's residents to participate in services such as signing on for power and water service, obtaining senior citizen discount rates for public transportation, obtaining library cards, reporting domestic violence, participating in other city and county programs and services, and having access to local and state government buildings to meet with elected officials and attend local government meetings; and

WHEREAS, Certain cities and counties, including the City and County of Los Angeles, City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, City of Watsonville, County of Santa Clara, and the County of Santa Cruz, now accept the Matricula Consular as official identification cards; and

WHEREAS, Numerous police and sheriffs departments across California, including those of the City of San Jose, Orange County, Sacramento County, San Diego County, and Santa Cruz County, also accept the Matricula Consular as official identification cards pursuant to their own departmental policy; and

WHEREAS, Various United States banks accept this form of identification, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, California Credit Union, U.S. Bank, and the California Union Bank, and since November 2001, Mexican immigrants have opened new bank accounts and deposited over \$50 million in banks throughout California using the Matricula Consular; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California urges cities and counties throughout California, including their respective agencies, and state agencies to accept the Mexican Consular identification cards, known as the "Matricula Consular," as an official form of identification; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

